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Letter dated 8 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to submit herewith for sharing with other Security Council members the attached communiqué on the situation in Burundi adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 571st meeting, held on 29 January 2016, at the level of Heads of State and Government (see annex).

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 8 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 571st meeting, held on 29 January 2016, at the level of Heads of State and Government, adopted the following decision on the situation in Burundi:

Council,

1. Takes note of the report of the Chairperson of the Commission (PSC/AHG/(DLXXI)) on the evolution of the situation in Burundi. Council also takes note of the statements made by the Second Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Joseph Butore, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, East African, Regional and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, Augustine P. Mahiga, in his capacity as the representative of the current Chair of the East African Community and the Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi, and as the representative of the East African Community mediator, H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. Council further takes note of the statement made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

2. Reiterates the concern of the African Union about the political situation, as well as the insecurity and violence, obtaining in Burundi;

3. Reaffirms the strong condemnation by the African Union of all acts of violence, whoever be the perpetrators, and of the persistence of impunity, and demands that all parties put an immediate end to all these attacks, violations of human rights and other abuses carried out against civilians and the security forces;

4. Reiterates the commitment of the African Union to respect the independence and territorial integrity of Burundi, and therefore condemns the armed attacks against its military structures, as well as any destabilization attempt, whatever be the origin, nature or the author;

5. Welcomes the steps taken by the Commission within the framework of the implementation of its relevant decisions on the situation in Burundi, particularly the support to the mediation led by Uganda and the mobilization of the international community to facilitate a coordinated action in support of the search for a peaceful solution to the current crisis;

6. Congratulates Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and Mediator in the Burundi crisis, on behalf of the East African Community, on the measures taken for the relaunching of the inclusive dialogue on 28 December 2015 in Entebbe and reiterates its support to him and for the continuation of the dialogue. Council reiterates its call on all the Burundian stakeholders, both Government and opposition groups, to fully cooperate with and show the utmost respect for the mediation;

7. Stresses, once again, the imperative need for the inter-Burundian dialogue to be genuine and all-inclusive, without preconditions, and focus on all the issues on which there is disagreement between the Burundian stakeholders. Council urges all Burundian stakeholders to respond, unconditionally and without delay, to the call by

the Mediator for the continuation of the dialogue in Arusha, Tanzania. As such, Council requests the Facilitator to conclude, as soon as possible, his consultations with the Government of Burundi and with other stakeholders in the inter-Burundian dialogue for its immediate resumption;

8. Welcomes the support of the region for the mediation efforts led by H.E. President Museveni. In this regard, Council welcomes the convening of the informal ministerial meeting organized by Tanzania, Chair of the East African Community, held in Arusha, on 6 January 2016, which was attended by the representatives of Uganda, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Secretary-General of the East African Community and the African Union;

9. Also welcomes the increasing mobilization of the international community, in particular the dispatch of a mission of the United Nations Security Council, which visited Burundi from 21 to 22 January 2016 and met with the main actors in the crisis, including the President of the Republic;

10. Takes note of the announcement made by the delegation of Burundi that the Government of Burundi rejects the deployment of the African Prevention and Protection Mission in Burundi. Council also takes note of the announcement made by the delegation of Burundi of the commitment of the Government of Burundi to an inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue, as relaunched on 28 December 2015, in Entebbe, by President Museveni, East African Community Mediator, with the support of the African Union;

11. Council, in the light of the foregoing:

(a) Decides not to deploy the African Prevention and Protection Mission in Burundi because it considers it premature to send such a force to Burundi and that an inclusive political dialogue must be supported under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Uganda;

(b) Also decides to dispatch a high-level delegation to Burundi to meet with the highest authorities of the Republic of Burundi, as well as with other Burundian stakeholders, to hold consultations on the inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue;

12. Requests the Chairperson of the Commission to take all the necessary initiatives to enable the expeditious mobilization of international assistance in support of the inter-Burundian dialogue;

13. Expresses its gratitude to the United Nations, the European Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and other international partners for their multifarious support to the inter-Burundian dialogue, under the auspices of President Museveni, and urges them to continue their support;

14. Requests the Chairperson of the Commission to urgently take all necessary initiatives to facilitate the efforts of the ongoing mediation, including the mobilization of the necessary financial and technical resources;

15. Reiterates its appreciation to the neighbouring countries hosting Burundian refugees, particularly Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, and appeals to the international community to continue and increase its assistance in order to alleviate the suffering of Burundian refugees;

16. Requests the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit the present communiqué to all Member States and to the Secretary-General and, through him, to the Security Council for its action, as appropriate;

17. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.